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24 June 1982

NOTE TO: Chief, Building Planning Staff, OL   **STAT**

FROM: Information Handling Systems Architect, DDA   **STAT**

SUBJECT: Systems Availability

REFERENCE: Note dated 7 June 1982,
Subject: Systems Availability

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You raise an excellent point. Particularly when availability is being addressed, there is the problem of cascading failures initiated by a spontaneous failure. While the MTBF may be long to the initiator, the MTTR is a composite of what happened in the cascade, and is usually much greater than that of the initiator.

Ultimately, I would aver we still have our allocation problem. The goal is to allocate the availability/reliability goals so that there is a balance in the marginal costification/ marginal cost. That is easier said than done, of course, since it is seldom possible or practical to quantify all the relevant factors in designing a complex system.

As you may know, I have applauded your UPS Study as being an important example of the type of availability homework we need to do before determining our system architectures. Thank you for including our office in your briefings.   **STAT**

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